



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

State Dept. review completed

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June 29, 1973

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Acting Chairman
Interagency Classification
Review Committee
Room 16, Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

As the Department's representatives on the Interagency Classification Review Committee discussed with you at its June 13 meeting, we request that the ICRC take action on a request for the declassification of correspondence between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev regarding the Cuban missile crisis.

Enclosed are the documents whose declassification is requested, the incoming letter from Professor Barton J. Bernstein, and background materials on this request.

As noted in the enclosures, Professor Bernstein first requested the declassification of the correspondence in October 1972. This Department is of the opinion that continued classification is not necessary. Since this correspondence originated with the White House, the advice of the National Security Council was sought; the NSC, without explanation, disapproved declassification. Before a response to Professor Bernstein could be drafted, Mr. Tufaro requested a thorough review of our comments regarding the classification of significant papers concerning the Cuban missile crisis for possible White House action.

Our reason for transferring action to the ICRC is to clarify the final responsibility for the decision in this matter and to avoid the Department of State's having to give a negative response without being able to justify that action under the terms of Executive Order 11652.

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If further information or assistance is required for ICRC action, please contact Mr. Mark A. Spiegel of the Legal Adviser's Office.

Sincerely yours,



Curtis W. Tarr
Acting Chairman
Council on Classification
Policy

Enclosures

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